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the next
President?
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THE BELL RINGER



Vol. 45 No. 2

MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY

NOVEMBER 1, 1988

Homecoming '88

Snowbird Stirs Spaghetti Supper Support

by Brooks Smith

At assembly in Wallace Hall, Snowbird introduced the kick-off for the ticket sales for the 1988 Spaghetti Supper. After an outstanding skit performance by John Smithwick, Billy Frist, Tom Lance, James Gooch, and Mike "I Love My Voice" Seshul, Snowbird was introduced. The skit involved

the massive John Smithwick's stealing of Billy Frist's ticket money. James, Mike, Tom, and Billy proceeded to whine to Snowbird about John's bulliness. Snowbird

confronted John, who broke down, showed his true colors, and gave back Billy's ticket money. Snowbird spoke after the skit about the importance of ticket selling and "ticket-selling etiquette." Dr. Paschall presented to Snowbird an honorary ticket to the homecoming game and a Spaghetti Supper raffle ticket.

Much as been learned concerning the identity of Snowbird. Although Sheldon "Bull" Griffin is a bit confused as to who he thinks Snowbird is, the identity of the man behind the mask has been

partially uncovered. The man of Snowbird and his friend, the voice of Myron the Rat, in-

vited their idea of publicly and on Channel 4. According to reliable sources, the man of Snowbird is about 5'11" and has long, flowing, blond hair. He supposedly plays in a Nashville area band. Snowbird also reportedly takes bribes to have Bill Hall mention schools during the school closing report. The rumor that Tom Lance and Mike Seshul paid Snowbird to mention MBA in such a report may or may not be true. Nonetheless, Snowbird provided a wonderful skit and encouraged a productive Spaghetti Supper.



Smithwick must learn his lesson from Snowbird.

Commentary: Homecoming Dance

by Rally Dupps

I have gone to MBA for three years, and I have gone to two Homecoming dances. They are supposed to be informal, right? Well, there is more to it than that.

First, one must have the nerve to ask some girl out. Usually, my dates

were people that I barely knew and that I had asked out just a couple of nights before. "Well," she says, "I've got relatives coming in from out of town," or, "I gotta do my hair," or sometimes just, "NO!"

After sweating out this rejection, one must ask some other unknown,

and she goes (figuring to meet someone else).

We eat at Dalts', the hot spot of MBA dance dates. She orders expensive food, but does not eat it (she is sure she will get it on her clothes). Now dinner is over, and I am thirty dollars poorer, but I manage to

muster enough strength to go to the dance. Up to this point in our date, we have spoken seventy-two words.

At the door we are confronted by fortunate MBA students or faculty members without dates. I spend five dollars, and we enter the "gymna-

sium of love." The band's name is "Rejected Slush Puppies from Mars" (this group is not a reference to Rub the Buddha). We socialize with friends staring into the abyss of boredom. Getting wise, we decided to split up. I go see Dances on page two

FEATURES

Is Dan Quayle Ready for the (Vice) Presidency?

by Jason Burroughs

"Who is this Dan Quayle jerk?" David Letterman poses this profound question nightly to the American public. I cannot say that Quayle is a jerk because I have never met him. What I can say is that Dan Quayle was a poor choice as the Republican Vice-Presidential candidate.

I do not question Quayle on the issues. He is a right-winger, he supports a strong defense,

and he wants to keep the economy moving forward.

Quayle's age poses no problem, because he has the older Bush on the ticket to provide the experience of years of service, and the Reagan years leave the party in need of new young faces.

On the matter of knowledge of the issues, Quayle, a diligent student of government, cannot be doubted. He is a polished speaker, able to make his points clear

and favorable to an audience.

The point upon which I question Quayle's adequacy as a Vice-Presidential candidate is his ability to lead the nation in a wartime situation after choosing not to join the regular armed forces during the Vietnam War.

The argument that most Quayle-backers make states that Quayle served his country by continuing his college studies and joining the National Guard so that

he would be available to fight if needed. I believe that he had every right to make that decision.

The problem occurs when Quayle finds himself in a position to draft Americans and to send them to war. How can Dan Quayle lead a war effort when he himself avoided a war?

If all Americans could go to college, or if all Americans could join the National Guard, then no drafted soldier could say that his leader had more opportunities to avoid combat. Many Americans, however,

lack the money or educational background to go to college and the friends in high positions to get them into the Guard during a war.

If such citizens must be drafted for a war, how can they respect Dan Quayle as a Commander-in-Chief? And if the leader of our country loses the respect of his army, how can he lead effectively? The Bush campaign should have studied Quayle's background to prevent such burden from bringing a good ticket down.

The Rapture

by David Lott

The anticipation for the End has passed now that the Rapture did not occur in September. The author of *Eighty-Eight Reasons*, Edgar C. Whisenant, uncovered in his study of the Bible certain references to the End of the world. According to his calculations, all these references pointed toward September 12 as the date for the Rapture. While Whisenant was enjoying his short-lived fame, preachers were busy coming up with reasons the Rapture would not occur within the certain three day period given by the author. The best of these reasons, and one with which I agree, is that the Bible clearly states that no one knows when the End will come, not even the Son himself (Matthew 24:36). Specifically the Bible says that no one will know the day of His return. Eddie sought to avoid a conflict here by establishing

a three day period in which the Rapture might occur. The majority of Christians, however, chose to take the Bible a little figuratively, as did St. Augustine (according to Mr. Dan Herring), and believe that the Bible really meant no one would know the time at all.

I do not personally know anyone who would be gullible enough to believe in Whisenant's prediction because I do not have any friends who are that stupid. However, according to my sources, there was a group in North Carolina who sold their possessions and awaited the End. They sure must feel like imbeciles now!

Now, after I conducted a personal interview with Mrs. Jo Palmore's brother-in-law at great physical risk, I learned his views on this touchy subject. Apparently, he is rather embarrassed about the whole ordeal be-

cause he has close ties with Ed—they are both from Little Rock, Arkansas.

Finally, I would like to close my article with a statement that tends to diminish Whisenant's credibility. According to my very dependable sources, Mr. Whisenant claimed that he would not make any profits from his pamphlet sales, but would probably just break even. Later, after the Rapture did not occur when predicted, he told the same reliable sources that if the Rapture had not occurred by the end of 1988, he would donate all his profits to charity. How can he donate profits he doesn't make?

Although Mr. Whisenant's calculations show that the Rapture will not occur for at least another two billion years, I try not to form an opinion on when He may really come. We should all be prepared every day should the Rapture occur.

ice is broken as people begin to dance. I rely on the shock dance to disguise my lack of any dance-like coordination. After hours of bliss, we leave.

We think of that someone else that we met and how to call them up to go out. Sometimes

the couple goes out for fast food, sometimes they go elsewhere, and sometimes they just go home.

My date is home, and I am filing for bankruptcy with my parents, yet we still managed to have some times and good memories.

**The Bell Ringer Staff
1988-1989**

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Renard Francois and David Lott have made three or more contributions to the newspaper and are now *Bell Ringer* staff members.

Chris Cigarran, Billy Lyell, Matt Inman, and Babu Paruchuri have made contributions to the two issues of the paper and now have two credits.

The following people have made only one contribution to the paper and thus have one credit: Rick Barksdale, Dan Brooks, Matt Bumstead, George Crawford, Rally Dupps, Scott Galloway, Jim Hayes, Hal Jones, Kevin Kruze, Bobo Malmstein, Eugene Parks, Andy Patterson, George Reitz, John Rockford, Jeremy Russell, Brooks Smith, Chris Steele, Brian Stephenson, and David Trainer.

FEATURES

RECOGNIZING ETHNOCENTRICITY

by Brian Stephenson

Some people who have been north to Yankee territory think that Yankees seem to act rather odd.

In fact, many Southerners are offended by the direct and brusque actions of their northern neighbors.

Conversely, Northerners often feel that Southerners cling to outdated values which have no place in today's highly advanced society.

If sincerely questioned, most Americans would grudgingly admit, however, that they consider all areas of America virtuous in some way or another. Just as all Americans have learned to adjust to regional differences, so too must all Americans adjust to differences within the world community.

Americans must adjust to the fact that each

country has a different perspective of its relative importance in the world. For example, many nations do not think of a world map the way most Westerners do.

The average American may find it surprising that an Australian world map is upside down and that Australia is in the very center of the map. The Chinese world map also has its own country at the center. In fact, the Chinese word for China comes from the word meaning "center."

The Japanese find Western toilets unsanitary. Japanese toilets are made so that a person squats rather than sits.

In Arabia, it is considered highly offensive to cross one's legs and expose the sole of the foot. It is also considered rude to give a firm

handshake, to look a person straight in the eye, and to want to "get down to business" immediately.

Latin Americans do business differently, too. Anyone who has done business with Latin Americans knows that a business meeting is ninety percent social.

Americans must learn how to deal effectively with other countries to remain the world power it has become.

The Japanese businesses have adapted to our culture very well and are, as a result, highly successful.

Americans, unfortunately, insist on conducting business their own way. America must soon realize the truth found in some words of wisdom from John Donne: "No man is an island. We are all part of the great continent of humanity."

PSAT/NMSQT Semifinalists

by Lawrence Berman

MBA's senior class has again this year won academic distinction. Back in October 1987, the present senior class took the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) uses the results of this test to begin the selection process of students from all across the country to receive some 6,000 Merit Scholarships worth a total of about \$23 million. Out of more than a million students who take the test, 15,000, slightly less than 1.5%, become semifinalists.

From this group of semifinalists, the NMSC selects approximately 14,000 finalists based on the high school record, essays, and school recommendations of the semifinalists.

The 6,000 Merit Scholars will be selected from the finalists. Many corporations give scholarships to finalists who are the children of employees and meet certain other preferential requirements; the NMSC itself sponsors directly some winners; and some universities will give scholarships to winners.

In an effort to recognize academic achievement the

NMSC also recognizes the students whose scores placed them in the top 45,000 of the more than one million who took the PSAT but not in the top 15,000 as commended students.

On September 5, the NMSC announced the semifinalists for this year. Out of a class of seventy-seven, MBA had nine: Larry Berman, Jason Burroughs, Warren Downs, John Hays, Scott Lewis, Rabin Nimmo, David Strayhorn, Mark Thraikill, and Jason West. These nine students will go on to compete for scholarships.

In October, the NMSC announced the commended students, recognizing fourteen more MBA students: Rick Barksdale, Peter Dudley, Brad Griffin, Sheldon Griffin, Willie Johnson, Jay Kahlon, Tom Lance, Andy Patterson, Jonathan Reeve, Chris Shea, John Smithwick, Brian Stephenson, and Andy Underwood. Also recognized was a friend and trend-setter of the class who left in the middle of last year: Martin Keith. In all, 30% of the class of 1989 has been recognized by the National Merit program.

Letter from the Editors

by Jason Burroughs

The tone of this letter is quite apologetic. First of all, I beg your forgiveness for the outcome of our hurried, inane, and mistake-riddled first issue of *The Bell Ringer*. Besides the numerous grammatical errors noted in the entertainment section of this issue, we mercilessly hacked Babu's epic dissertation on U.S. foreign policy. We hope to atone for our sin by reprinting the article in its entirety in this issue.

My apology must also cover aspects of this issue. For those who read my article on page two, please understand

that I do not mean to say that the National Guard is a wimp's army, but in a wartime situation it is certainly less heroic than the front line of the regular armed forces. Furthermore, I regret deeply that we included no "forum-like chats" in this issue.

I believe, however, that this issue is a vast improvement over the last issue. We have actually read through the articles and made some corrections, the Fox's Den debuts, and Richie's Ramble rolls on. This issue promises to be entertaining, informative, and thought-provoking. Enjoy!

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*The Bell
Ringer***



FEATURES

Should U.S. Foreign Policy Be Changed?

by Babu Paruchuri

U.S. foreign policy must be reassessed for greater consistency as well as effectiveness. The first step towards a better foreign policy might be an elimination of the idea that all governments are either good or bad, communist or democratic, and stable or unstable.

A perfect example of an error in foreign policy can be spotted in Nicaragua or, for that matter, all of Central America.

In Nicaragua, the Reagan Administration branded the Nicaraguan government as communist. President Reagan pleaded for support for the contras, so-called "freedom fighters"; yet, he did not understand that in addition to the fact that the contras were reportedly abusing human rights and that they were massively outnumbered, they also consisted of some of the same men who were part of the dreaded Somoza regime, a regime, which the U.S. supported.

Somoza and his family ruled the country as puppets of the U.S. for 40 years, and accumulated 90% of the country as their own property. Thus the administration is backing a rebel group which is connected with one of the most repressive regimes Nicaragua has ever seen.

Does this type of policy seem consistent?

Hardly so.

Under the Sandinista regime, progress has been made in virtually every sector of life.

Many U.S. politicians constantly point out the lack of freedom

of speech and other freedoms considered necessary for democracy in Nicaragua; however, no country has ever been expected to allow full recognition of human rights during times of revolution.

Other conservatives believe the economy is faltering. It may be, but is weak partially as a result of the tremendous pressure from the contras and a war which starves the country of resources.

When the Sandinistas overthrew the horrifying Somoza regime, the U.S., losing a puppet ruler, immediately showed disdain for the revolution. It was this complete lack of support which resulted in Nicaragua's increasing dependence on the Soviet Union as well as Cuba's commitment to the Soviets. Had the U.S. been more open-minded, we might now have two allies instead of two enemies.

Panama serves as yet another disgusting example of a contradiction in ideologies of U.S. foreign policy.

Several allegations have been made that the CIA (headed by George Bush at one point) was aware of Noriega's involvement in drugs and that it later used Noriega as a cover for funding to the contras as a result of the money made from drug sales.

The Medellin-Cartel, which is a major source of drugs, has been conclusively proven to be connected with Noriega.

The U.S. government has too often judged

countries to be our allies or enemies based on whether a country does or does not openly support the U.S. The U.S. should not expect every government in the world to embrace us, but instead, let them rule according to the will of the people.

An excellent solution might be found in complete lack of support of a country which does not truly respect the rights of the people.

In Panama, the U.S. finds itself a bargaining slave with Noriega, a situation which not only destroys our credibility as a country but also our credibility to the world.

Economic sanctions have not hurt Noriega but have instead forced the Panamanian people to the brink of desperation. These are the situations that ignite Anti-Americanism.

A situation has arisen in South Korea, and the U.S. again remained silent because the government of South Korea simply acknowledges support for the U.S.

In South Korea, student protests have grown concerning the transfer of power from the former president Chun Doo Hwan to present president Roh Tae Woo.

There were no free elections for the people, but instead Roh Tae Woo was simply elected by an electoral-college system that favored the ruling party. Through bribes and promises, the electorals could have easily been bought by the ruling party. In other words, the people of Korea had no voice in the

elections, and this is what is exciting riots all over South Korea.

If the Reagan Administration sees the Sandinistas' lack of respect for some human rights during a revolution as a threat to democracy, why does it not feel the same way about the situation in South Korea which is presently not a democracy but instead a dictatorship?

To some extent, the Sandinistas are justified due to a revolution caused by the contras; however, South Korea has a strong economy and a highly educated people but still do not allow free elections.

According to a recent poll, 65% of South Koreans are "dissatisfied" with the present government. Complains a student, "The Korean people want a president who is elected by the Korean people."

There have been some situations when the present foreign policy worked.

In Libya, the air raid made by the U.S. certainly quieted Quadafi, but it raised a question of who the terrorists really were.

It also risked retaliation from the Libyan government in the form of more terrorist attacks, and the U.S. certainly could not continue to perform air raids on Libya.

Nevertheless, the purpose of the mission was achieved but at the risk of a possible escalation of the situation in which a rather crazy leader was involved.

During this situation, President Reagan refused to negotiate with

terrorists and a year later the Iran-contra scandal was uncovered in which

President Reagan approved an arms-for-hostages deal. It is this type of inconsistency in foreign policy which makes U.S. foreign policy ineffective.

The Iran-contra scandal uncovered how the Administration has schemed to bypass or circumvent the laws of the country to trade these arms for hostages and in the process divert profitable funds to the ineffective contras.

This strategy gives the Iranians and other terrorists an incentive to take more hostages through hopes of more U.S.-made weapons. The entire scandal destroyed the U.S. credibility to the Arab nations in addition to breaking several laws.

In Grenada, Ronald Reagan hailed the invasion of the country as a great victory over communism. This was not exactly a great accomplishment when one considers the scope of the victory. Grenada is an island 1/10 the size of Rhode Island.

The only way the U.S. can solve some of these problems is to use more logic and reason in its decisions. If foreign

*see Foreign Policy on
page five*

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FEATURES

MBA Cafeteria: Is It Time for Another Change?

by Marion Southall

School cafeterias have always had the reputation of having horrible food (e.g. the daily mystery "meat," the drippy fries, the biscuits that can be used as discs, etc.). However, the cafeteria at this school should not have this reputation.

Belle Meade Buffet caters the MBA cafeteria and has been doing so for over twenty years. Over these years, student protests to prices and quality have been infrequent.

The 1981, *The Bell Ringer* asked the question, "Is it time for a change?" Its articles cited recurring problems with the catering service since Belle Meade Buffet took over in the early 1960's. For instance, a student body referendum in 1969 forced the lowering of the price of milk in the cafeteria. In 1981, a gourmet committee met with Belle Meade Buffet representatives with a list of grievances on particular food items. Among these complaints were the fact that the french fries and the pizza were too greasy, the drinks were inconsistent, and that the hamburgers had a soy bean content. Even discussion was made

Foreign Policy cont...

policy is guided by respect of democracy which every administration claims, we should be taking some steps against developments similar to occurrences in South Korea and numerous other countries.

Inconsistency is proven to be present in foreign policy, and as soon as the U.S. government uses more diplomacy and a non-interventionary policy constantly, only then will the fruits of success be seen. Unfortunately, there are numerous situations which have not even been mentioned such as South Africa, Haiti, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, and several other

about the handling of machinery like the grill and the hot dog steamer.

Some improvements have been made. A new salad bar was opened in December of 1981, but that has been about it. (This does not include the newly-renovated lunchroom itself.) These "improvements" are not enough.

Regardless of what Belle Meade believes of the student body, it is the students who buy the food and who make profit for the cafeteria. If, for instance, the student body began to take their lunches to school, Belle Meade would come running to campus asking what is wrong with the food (although that would wake the Buffet up, I am neither recommending nor saying we should do that). Complaints to the service and to the administration by individuals have gone overlooked or ignored and it is time to force Belle Meade to look at its operation at this school.

Many students I talk to agree on two points: that the quality of the food has declined at an alarming rate over the years and that the prices have risen dramatically. Even teachers complain about the

Buffet's food and service. So what are we, as paying customers, to do?

After talking with the manager of the cafeteria here at MBA, I was assured by her that any and all problems with the cafeteria, as found by the survey results, would be looked into. One suggestion that she made to this reporter was for a committee to be set up to discuss problems and possible improvements for the cafeteria. I can agree with the idea and hope that an effort is made to have communication with Belle Meade.

The survey verified some of the predictions and complaints made to me. Without going into specific numbers, the following assumptions have been made (some results were thrown out for lack of answers or rude comments):

1. **Do you bring your own lunch?**

The majority of the students bring their own lunches, although some people stated that they buy food from the cafeteria sometimes also.

2. **If so, why?**

For the junior school, some

people said mother was the reason why they toted their bags. However, for the majority of us, lunch is both cheaper from home and offers more variety.

3. **How much money do you spend per week in the cafeteria?**

The answers varied here obviously, but the majority of people spend between five to eight dollars a week.

4. **Do you believe the price of the food is high or reasonable?**

Most everyone believes the prices are high.



A few seniors take a peek at Jean's home cooking.

Chess Team back from the Grave

by Chris Steele

Last year, a tradition was reborn here on the Hill: chess.

In the 1970's, the MBA chess team was virtually invincible, winning five straight state championships from 1972 to 1977.

At the 1988 State Scholastic Tournament, Big Red chess served notice to the world that it was back from the grave

and ready for action by upsetting hometown favorite Memphis University School to capture second place.

This year's team, consisting of Michael O'Hare, Chris Steele, David Strayhorn, and Mark Thraillkill will be trying to improve that performance by capturing the State Team Championship in the finals to be held at MBA this spring.

The club boasts record numbers and plans many activities throughout the year, including school-wide tournaments and simultaneous exhibitions and chess clinics by national master and MBA alumnus

Mark Ishee.

The first of these simulcs was held October 1, in which Mr. Ishee played fifteen of the club's top players. Although all put up a valiant effort, only Mark Thraillkill was able to win a game while David Strayhorn escaped with a technical draw.

This year the club looks ahead toward a bright future including a shot at a National Championship in May. We encourage anyone with even the slightest amount of interest (including faculty) to drop by one eighth period to see what really goes on over the sixty-four squares.

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GO BIG RED

FEATURES

Paint This, Ryan!

by Chris Cigarran

As long as Mrs. Lowry can remember, students from Father Ryan High School have used what they have learned in finger-painting class to paint the Civil War cannons of Montgomery Bell Academy. This year, however, this tradition ended.

Starting on Tuesday, October 11, a large group of fed-up seniors lay in wait for the hooligans. Decked out in camouflage, the group called it quits at 12:30 a.m. after running off several members of the Irish community. The next morning the weary seniors arrived only to see the cannons once again painted RED!!!

Well, the anger didn't last long because at lunch time any student who ventured out to the front yard was fortunate enough to see members of Father Ryan's student council as well as their new headmaster once again practicing their painting technique. One student was heard to say, "Their headmaster reminds me of Roosevelt-he swings a big stick."

The next two nights were much more successful. With the word spreading throughout the school all the way to Dr. Paschall, many lower classmen joined in the defense of the cannons.

Once again, many aspiring Irish painters were chased off, but this time, the watch did not end at 12:30. Many juniors along with a couple of seniors, spent the night in the Ball Building chasing off the last

group of marauders at 4:00 in the morning.

The next night the anti-Irish-art team once again met at 8:00 p.m. After chasing down a group of Ryanites in a red Mustang convertible who claimed to be just passing by, the squad chased off the ever-present Kevin Melley led by Chet Frist's earth-shaking, "Hi, Guys." Once again, a group led by David Lockyear and C.B. Harwell spent the night, creating the first time in many years which the cannons were black on the day of the game. This promises to

by Matt Inman
and Billy Lyell

During the second week of school, two M.B.A. students were given five demerits each for "reckless driving" in and around the junior parking lot. The cause for their reckless driving was their participation in the First Annual Peeling Contest held at an undisclosed location. The contest was divided into two categories: longest peel and most smoke from a single peel. While neither of the victims of the demerit system won either division, they did receive cheers of appreciation

be a new M.B.A. tradition with C.B. Harwell promising that from now on anyone trying to paint the cannons will have to go through him.



Gooch's smooth escorting allows Homecoming Queen Jennifer Rose to sleep through the ceremony.

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(W)reckless Driving

from the large and spirited crowd. Many other contestants received an array of boos' and cheers' from the audience concerning their peel. No peel, however, surpassed Billy Lyel's sixty-seven foot "white cloud" victory peel. (He managed to take first place in both categories with this peel.) Also, an honorable mention has been

awarded to Jim Haynes for the most destruction of vegetation.

Unable to participate in this year's peeling contest, Jay Bradford later proceeded to enter and win his own "speed" contest. In a turbo-charged AMC Eagle 4-wheel drive station wagon, Bradford exceeded speeds of 260 m.p.h. somewhere on I-440.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Shhh — Don't Say the "L" Word!

Thank heavens, he's not another Jack Kennedy. What Lloyd Bentsen failed to realize before he launched such a witty, rehearsed one-liner is that the American public neither wants another JFK nor enjoys below-the-belt insults from a boring, old Senator from Texas.

This election's debates have minimized the macro-issues of the race, and cloaked the absurdity of the Democratic platform.

For instance, the emphasis of the Vice-Presidential parallel press conference was on the credibility of Sen. Dan Quayle's qualifications for Presidency. More than once, Quayle was asked what he would do in the event that he suddenly became President. Could there have been a more idiotic, vague, and unanswerable question?

He did, however, take it in stride and muttered something about praying

Richie's Ramble On the Presidential Election



and meeting with the Cabinet.

Again, Quayle was asked about his decision to serve his country while at the same time, continue his education. And, for some reason, he feels obligated to justify his involvement in the National Guard. (Assume that he did go to Vietnam and lost. Wouldn't we have every pinko-environmentalist, peace group liberal shouting "Baby-Killer" and "Imperialist Pig"?)

One of the most blatant omissions in questioning was the lack of discussion on ETHNO-

think enhances their credibility and shows their deep concern for the American viewer.

At first, I thought that both Gov. Dukakis and Sen. Bentsen happened to be blind; it turns out that they're just impolite. Seriously, the entire attitude of the Democratic campaign is one of bitterness and resentment.

Starting with Jim Sasso's sleazy ploy to remove Joe Biden from the primary, Dukakis's aim has not been to advertise, to promote, and to defend his own liberal policies, but rather to make sneering, meaningless remarks about his opponent. As a matter of fact, what hardcore solutions and ideas has Dukakis presented that will work? One economist noted after Dukakis's acceptance speech in Atlanta that if he actually tried to do what he said, he would bankrupt the country

fifty times over.

Lately, the Dukakis people have been crying that Bush is attacking Dukakis's patriotism. Bush is, in fact, attacking Dukakis, not his patriotism. Right or wrong, it is Bush's theory that a man who is running for President should represent the mainstream views of the American people, and that if he doesn't, he should not be considered as a legitimate candidate simply because he covers up his liberalism.

The issue of a candidate's character, ideas, and integrity is a macro-issue in an election and takes precedence over silly proposals on child-care.

Defense is another distorted issue in this election. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that Bush is clearly more experienced and knowledgeable on na-

see Ramble
on page eleven

The Fox's Den

The Fox's Den is a new feature to the *Bell Ringer*. It gives you a chance to talk about your personal problems with the man himself—Renard François. If you have a question you want "The Fox" to answer, put it on a sheet of paper and hand it to Jason Burroughs or Marion Southall.

Dear Den,

Throughout my career at MBA (I am a senior now), I have maintained a 100 average in every class. This year, Mr. Drake said he would not give anybody a 100. What should I do? Should I get my mom to call? Should I make his job a living hell? Should I slip a large quantity of

laxative into his drink? SIGNED-INTENSELY ACADEMIC

Dear IA,

Your grades are good enough for college so forget school. Apply early to a college and blow off high school. Have a couple of parties and disrupt class. The laxative idea is good so save it for a special occasion.

Dear Den,

I have this problem. You see, it is like, lately, I have had a change in my sense of humor. I used to enjoy the subtle humor of Socrates or Aristotle. Now, I find that Bugs Bunny and "Knock-Knock" jokes are far more attractive to me (I also have this thing

for high-revvin' turbo Chevys). I talked to my good friend...well, let us just call him "The Bull" for secrecy sake. He says that it is perfectly normal. Is it? SIGNED-THE BAD HUMOR MAN

Dear BH,

Oh, you are just fine. In fact, you might want to think about playing line for the football team. You sound like the kind of man they like. *Renard François' opinions are his own and do not represent the opinions of the Bell Ringer. Mr. François does not hold any degree and therefore, his advice should not be taken lightly.*

by Brian Stephenson
Is Forrest Conner a thug?

Yes, it is true.

Forrest Connor is making his acting debut on the Harpeth Hall stage by dramatically interpreting the role of "Thug" in Harpeth Hall's fall musical, *42nd Street*.

wick at the Snow Bird Spaghetti Supper Assembly.

Joining Forrest on the stage will be Prescott Glynn, Rob Howell, Shawn Murray, Brian Stephenson, Jason West, and Simon Westlake.

Forrest and company highly recommend this production as an esoteric alternative to the standard "dinner and movie" dates that MBA boys always seem to choose.

42nd Street will be performed at Harpeth Hall's auditorium on November 18, 19 and 20.

Thug!!

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ENTERTAINMENT

R.E.M. — *Eponymous*

by Scott Galloway

In 1978, a very shy Michael Stipe enrolled as an art student at the University of Georgia. At the same time, a fast-talking non-Southerner, Peter Buck enrolled in Georgia.

Stipe often went to Athens, Georgia's local record store, where Buck was the clerk. Buck saw something charismatic in the reclusive Stipe. Soon, they became good friends and they decided to form a band.

In the beginning, Peter Buck was a guitarist who could only play four chords, and who could not solo or play barre chords.

In early 1980, a mutual friend introduced Bill Berry to Stipe and Buck at a college party. Berry says that they were not seriously looking to get a band together but they wanted something to play at parties.

Berry, who had been drumming since the age of ten, came to the University of Georgia in search of a law degree. The year before entering college, Bill Berry worked as a go-fer for a rock booking agency in Macon. This job gave him the opportunity to meet Ian Copeland (Ian's brother, Miles, would eventually establish IRS Records). Now all the band needed was a bassist.

Berry suggested his high-school friend Mike Mills, who also attended (somewhat) the university. Mills and Berry spent the junior year of high-school playing Doobie Brothers songs in

a band called Corn Cob Web.

Initially, the four assembled to practice songs like "God Save the Queen," "Steppin' Stone," and "Secret Agent Man," but soon they began to concentrate on more original songs (Buck and Stipe had been writing since 1978).

In April of 1980, the band made their debut at an Athens' party. They chose their name, R.E.M., basically at random. Stipe says, "They just like the dots."

From the beginning, everyone who saw this band knew they were different. The band performed as if the audience were not there. Stipe assumed a rigid stance, never moving from the microphone, always hiding his face with his hair, and requesting the lights "so low that he could hardly be seen."

Many people had mixed emotions about Stipe's mumbling, spontaneous, mystifying lyrics. Soon, they found they were making more money in R.E.M. than in their early day jobs. Then, everyone but Stipe quit school to focus on the band.

In 1981, the band began to tour almost continuously, usually in Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas. Also in 1981, R.E.M. got an offer it could not refuse, a single at no cost. They recorded "Radio-Free Europe" and "Sitting Still" for this IRS single.

In May of 1982, R.E.M. recorded *Chronic Town* on the

IRS label. Soon to follow was *Murmur*; it sold 300,000 copies.

R.E.M. was able to pump out many albums in a short time because the songs were the same ones they had been playing live for some time.

In 1984, they laid down the basic tracks for the entire *Reckoning* LP in two days. In 1985, R.E.M. released *Fables of the Reconstruction*; this album probably marks a turning point in the bands history.

In 1986, *Life's Rich*

Pageant was released.

This effort went gold. In 1987, R.E.M. released *Dead Letter Office (B-Side Compiled)*. In the writers' opinion, this album is a classic. It is composed of many of the outtakes from previous R.E.M. albums.

Also, 1987 was the year R.E.M. released *Document..* This album was somewhat of disappointment for many of the band's fans; it was a little less experimental and a little more mainstream.

In 1988, R.E.M. has signed with Warner Brother Records. October 3, IRS released *Eponymous*, a collection of R.E.M. songs.

This album represents the evolution of R.E.M. from recluse to performer, in the case of Stipe, and from "the band's old anti-theater stance" to true entertainers. *Eponymous* gives a good recollection of the history of R.E.M. This album is a worthwhile investment whether one has all or none of R.E.M.'s pre-

Love & Rockets

by Jim Haynes

Although written off as just another punk band, Bauhaus was created when the surrealistic Peter Murphy and the multi-talented guitarist Daniel Ash joined bassist David J and drummer Kevin Haskins.

Their first album, *In the Flat Field*, is the darkest and most confused of their albums. Murphy's incomprehensible lyrics combine with Ash's screaming guitar and David J's fast and unique bass.

In contrast, *Mask*, their second album, shows a more composed and romantic flavor to the music. "The Man with X-Ray Eyes" mixes Murphy's echoing, almost prophetic lyrics with David J's quick bass and a swirling blend of guitars and keyboards. Ash's attraction to the acoustic guitar is evident in his masterpiece "The Passion of Lovers." Ash combines the powerful bass of David J and

...REM continued...

vios recordings. *Eponymous* has several highlights: the version of "Radio Free Europe" is the original track released on the band's 1981 single, "Gardening at Night" has the original vocal take that was replaced for the *Chronic Town* EP, and "Romance" is one of the many songs the band performed in the early years but never recorded.

On Election day, November 8, Warner Brothers will release R.E.M.'s new album. The title will probably be *Think Tank Decoy*. The album will probably have a pop song or two and some mandolin. R.E.M. plans to tour sometime after New Year's Day. Rumors are spreading that Michael Stipe is working on a solo project.

his guitar to contrast Murphy's neurotic lyrics.

After some European success, Bauhaus released their first U.S. album, an experimental album, *The Sky's Gone Out*. Murphy remade the proto-punk "Third Uncle" by Brian Eno, and Murphy's version sounds much faster and more paranoid than Eno's cool, quiet version. "The Exquisite Corpse" is the most bizarre song ever cut by Bauhaus. This song repeats insane clichés and disturbing screams of David J proclaiming the end of the world.

Their final album *Burning from the Inside* sounds more like the separate artist's works than one unified band. "She's in Parties" and "Burning from the Inside" recapture the dark themes of early Bauhaus. David J's soft quiet music with poetic lyrics are characterized in "Who Killed Mr. Moonlight."

But Bauhaus was a concert band. Murphy's presence dominated the stage; his quick neurotic dancing paralleled his singing. Ash's guitar was loaded with distortion and electrical glitches. David J's quiet immovable stance was seldom felt except through his bass. Bauhaus played songs mostly never recorded on albums such as "Bela Lugosi's Dead," "Rose Garden Funeral of Sores," and a version of David Bowie's "Ziggy Stardust."

Although Bauhaus became defunct, Ash and Haskins formed the instrumental band Tones on Tail with Glenn Campling. Their self-titled first album is a twisted journey into murky instrumentalism with the only words either being schizophrenic whispers by Ash or haunting gothic wails. But *Pop*, their second album, had Ash singing clear lyrics. In "Rain," Ash combines random notes of melancholic keyboards and Campling's slow, powerful bass with Ash's soothing, almost whispering voice.

David J's solo album *The Etiquette of Violence* is based on lyrics and not the music. With only basic acoustic music, J creates a beautifully

continued on page nine

ENTERTAINMENT

Are You Ready for Freddy?

by John Gupton

"Whatever you do
don't fall asleep!"
*-Nightmare on Elm
Street*

Thus Nancy, the main character of the first Elm Street movie, warns a friend. Her advice is wise for any characters in the popular *Nightmare on Elm Street* series, for it seems sleep nearly always has fatal results for them. How can they stand a chance, though, with a murdering friend like Freddy Krueger relentlessly stalking them in their nightmares? According to the story, if Freddy wastes somebody in dreamland, he's dead for real. Krueger preys mostly on teenagers, collecting their souls after each killing. A former child-murderer, he was brought to justice by

continued from page eight
calm album that at times appears humorous, similar to his days with electric Jazz Butcher. The dark side of Bauhaus is lost with David J's album.

Ash, Haskins, and David J reunited and created Love & Rockets. The first album, *The Seventh Dream of Teenage Heaven*, is composed much like Ash's Tones on Tail. The

a group of avenging parents who trapped him and burned him to death (hence, his hideous countenance). Not one to take death lying down, he returns in the nightmares of the children whose parents fried him, a grotesque demon with a menacing-looking right hand.

Undoubtedly, this character and his movies have become a phenomenon. A recent article in *Time* reports that the new film, *A Nightmare on Elm Street 4: The Dream Master*, made \$12.8 million in its first three days (one of the biggest openings for a movie all year). In recent years, Freddy has been a cult figure, but now he's really going commercial with a TV series, books, and other merchandise. No doubt,

combination of Ash's and David J's voices along with quick repetitive keyboards on "Haunted When the Minutes Drag" contain the darker themes of Bauhaus; however, *Express*, their second album, reveals a powerfully guitar-oriented album. Themes switch to the politically dark themes with "Ball of Confusion" (a remake of an old Four Tops song), David J's dark

the Fred Krueger look will be the rage this Halloween.

Some might dismiss the *Nightmare* movies and their kind as "trash." However, the new movie has actually received some good notices, most notably from *U.S.A. Today's* Mike Clark, who gave it a three star rating, calling it "good entertainment." His assessment is a good one; for, while the movies may sometimes be mindless, there is no denying their entertainment value. Few films are able to blend honor and humor as well as these. Always imaginative, they are better than the average horror flicks.

Upon this overwhelming reception of the new movie, one may wonder why such a depraved character as

Freddy Krueger and his movies are so popular. One reason is common to all works in the horror genre: they provide a catharsis for our fears. The films offer a means for us to confront fears. They make us squirm in our seats, then jolt, then breathe a sigh of relief. Humor plays an important role by allowing the moviegoer to release some tension. In fact, Freddy's sense of humor is a major reason for his popularity. He may be evil to the core, but, in a perverse way, he is very funny. For example, he is scathingly witty. In one nightmare sequence, he maims a fitness fanatic and tells her teasingly, "No pain - no gain!" Another time, Freddy slays a hopeful young actress by bashing her through a TV

row." Recently, Love & Rockets has reappeared under the pseudonym, the Bubblemen. Their only album is the 12" single "The Bubblemen Are Coming." They create a humorously bizarre album with the distant guitars of Ash and the powerful beats of Haskins.

As for Peter Murphy, his recent solo album *Love Hysteria* is a more romantic,

screen saying, "Welcome to prime time!" Also a memorable moment is the time Freddy tries to persuade a terrified youth to do his dirty work. "You've got the body, and I've got the brain," he tells him, as he casually removes his hat and slices his head open to reveal his brain. Gruesome? Disgusting? You Bet. However, Freddy's violence is not nearly as gory (or boring and repetitive) as that of his horror-movie peer Jason. One thing these two do have in common is longevity. If you thought the fourth movie might be Freddy's finale, dream on. As long as Freddy packs 'em in at the theatres, rakes in the bucks, and mutilates the competition at the box office, he'll be back. Sweet dreams!

lighter album than songs such as "All Night Long." Murphy's grey poetry and music suit him much better than the extremely dark music of Bauhaus.

Unfortunately, neither Love & Rockets nor Peter Murphy have been able to recapture the raw, surrealistic creativity that they possessed with Bauhaus.

Top 10 Bell Ringer Grammatical Errors and Most Commonly

Broken Laws by MBA Students (and Penalty for Each)

1. lack of subject-verb agreement (-5 pts.)
2. indecent exposure (up to 1 yr. and/or date with drive-thru employee)
3. run-on sentence (-5 pts.)
4. egregious misspelling of *Freudian* (copy 10 times)
5. driving in the left lane on the Blvd. (terrifying trip to traffic court)
6. lack of parallelism (-5 pts.)
7. loitering/harrassing Krystal employees (lecture on proper Krystal etiquette from undercover Metro police officer)
8. destruction of property on West Tyne (a long sprint across golf course)
9. ambiguous pronoun reference (-5 pts.)
10. cruising violations at Rivergate Mall (\$50 fine)



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SPORTS

Romy: The Spy We Love

by David Trainer

Jeremy Russell, affectionately known as Romy, is much more than the stern football player and respectable student that the student body knows him to be. He leads a double life. Jeremy Russell is a spy. Yes, it is true.

For example, his car, the Tourismo 2.2, is a technologically unique machine, equipped with a turbo boost that rockets the car to speeds up to 290 miles per hour, machine guns hidden in the windshield wipers, and the capability to travel underwater to a depth of 100 meters. But his car is used only for his protection in case of enemies discovering his true identity.

Nonetheless, his identity was revealed to me by secret sources in the CIA, and I was completely convinced upon seeing him on the front cover of *Paris Match* magazine. When the photo was taken, Jeremy was posing as a summer tourist in France.

I toiled for weeks to obtain bits and pieces of information about his extremely, well-guarded, top-secret mission.

Fortunately, I learned that Romy was sent to Copenhagen and then travelled to France as a Danish tourist in order to recover blueprints of a new, highly advanced fighter/reconnaissance airplane. These blueprints were stolen by Soviet agents whom an underground Communist organization hid in St. Piére.

The most interesting part about the mission was Romy's ingenious disguise. Plastic surgeons made Romy a 30 year-old, blond woman. My sources say that Romy easily penetrated the Communist group and recovered the blueprints.

But his escape was not easy. While on his way to catch a plane to return home, he was pursued by the Communists and forced to initiate Plan B to flee to India

on a Suzuki Nuda powered by a GSXR 750 cc engine. The highly advanced motorcycle had such features as SACS, nitrius-oxide intake, and a smoke screen.

Once on the motorcycle, there was nothing to stop Romy as he zoomed away, because none of his pursuers could keep up.

Romy, having safely reached India and having enjoyed a few days rest there, returned to the United States and to Tennessee for the beginning of football practice. Romy then completed his mission when he gave the blueprints to CIA agents disguised as Scouts at the Jamboree.

Romy is now leading his normal life, and I am sure he has plans for next summer. Sources speculate that he may travel somewhere in Nicaragua and relieve Rambo for a few weeks in the war there.

You must wonder what Romy gets in return for this very dangerous

see Romy, page eleven

Microbe Cross

Country Gears Up for H.V.A.C.

by George Rietz

Although this year's Microbe team has been plagued by injuries and by the losses of Hal "The Traitor" Pickel and Kavi Paruchuri, each member of the team has shown consistent improvement. The Team has also been helped by Kevin Stoll and Howard Rietz, tennis players who have run in recent meets.

In his final year of coaching cross-country, Mr Novak has helped to

develop the skills of seventh-grade runners. Among these are Taylor Harris, Ed Jack, and Le

Moyne Harwell, all of whom have placed in the top 5 for MBA. These runners have been cru-



Coach Novak is on target in '88

Cheerleading:
Fact or Fiction?by Lanson Hyde and
James Gooch

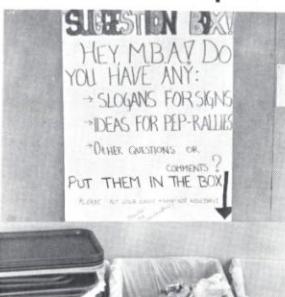
The 1988-1989 Cheerleading Squad is one of the best ever, but it suffers from a student body lacking school spirit.

The team consists of the seldom present Josie Sevier, Ellen Sevier, Paige Ferragina, Margarite Nielson, Marsha Ivy, Carter "Plumpy" Murray, Beth Sullins, and Jennifer Rose.



Beth Sullins turns to seniors for support and cheer.

MBA School Spirit



Abernathy Truck Salvage

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Hart Hardware

West Meade
Belle Meade

Compliments
of
Rochford
Construction
Company

**Good luck to
the football
team in its
game against
Hillsboro
tonight.
GO BIG RED
from a friend**

SPORTS

Cross-Country Looks to Region

by James Gooch and
Lanson Hyde

The 1988 Varsity Cross-Country team and occasionally Rob Lance have had a successful fall season in the sport of kings. (Really, it is the sport of kings-kings of what, we have no idea.)

After a rough month of September training, the "Cruisers" took their act on the road, travelling to Lexington, Kentucky, to compete in the prestigious Lexington Catholic Invitational at the spectacular Kentucky Horse Park.

For the first time this season, the top six: George Reitz, Jason Burroughs, Keith Ikard, James Gooch, Lanson Hyde, and Casey Jones, finally came together as a team to lay claim to

their position as one of the top cross-country powers of the mid-state.

Out of twenty-three teams, the Cruisers placed a respectable second to a strong team from Cordia, Kentucky. But perhaps just as notable was the night before the meet, when James Gooch and David "The Mauler" Strayhorn burst the bubble of immortality surrounding tri-captain Lanson Hyde in a brutal, Ryanesque, two-on-one extravaganza.

The Big Red then returned to Nashville for two more weeks of anxious training in anticipation of a showdown with surprise front-runner Hillsboro at the Metro Classic (on theme day, no less) at the Steeple-

chase.

The three-time defending champion Big Red were defeated in perhaps their best effort in recent years by a Herculean Hillsboro's performance. Everyone on the team ran his best time, and six people earned individual trophies: George Reitz 29th, James Gooch 24th, Jason Burroughs 19th, Lanson Hyde 10th, Casey Jones 7th, and Keith Ikard overcame a cramp to finish a tough 5th.

The Cruisers are encouraged by the fact that the score was close and feel that with a good night's sleep and a little luck, they can bring the Region title home to the Hill, where it belongs.



Varsity Cross-country runners hard at work.



Casey Jones reacts to Dr. Paschall's naming Devraj Basu a winner of shoes



Bob runs the ball.

Poe's Sporting Goods

**Team Wear & Equipment
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Fund Raising
10% Discount to MBA

Students
Westgate Shopping Center
Highway 100

Richie's Ramble
only in
The Bell Ringer
Freshman Football

by Billy Lyell and
Matt Inman

The freshman football team began its season with a victory over Stratford. After losing a crucial game to Whites Creek (7-0) in double overtime, they went on to destroy Hillwood (22-8), Pearl-Cohn (33-8), and the ever so weak Irish (22-0).

The overpowering freshman offense is led by quarterback Joe Underwood with Zack Law, Glenn Harris, and David Quartz as other see Freshman on next page

Ramble..

from page seven...
more experienced and knowledgeable on national defense. Dukakis is, at best, an amateur.

One of the most critical qualifications for a President in these days of interface with the Soviets is experience in foreign policy. Again Dukakis has no previous reference and very little candor.

All in all, Gordon Bondurant said it best: this election "is strictly Bush, gentlemen."

Romy

from page ten

work. First, he is allowed to keep whatever equipment he uses, such as the Suzuki Nuda with all the special features. He also gets paid \$100,000 dollars, most of which is spent on the *Mach Rider* video game on which Romy, alias Jeremy Russell, has the second best score.

SPORTS

Varsity Football Sets New Goals

by Dan Brooks

The 1988 Big Red football team has now rolled its way to a 7-2 record.

Ever since Day 1, August 1, the Big Red has had their eyes on the state playoffs, but their dreams were denied by two losses over the course of the season, each to a class AAA team. This killing of the dream has sunk deep into the hearts of the players and coaches. But wait! The life of a team does not end just because of a slip in statistical records. As Mick Jagger once said, "You can't always get what you want."

On a warm fall night, the Big Red travelled to Whites Creek High School for their second game of the year and first district game of the season. At the half, MBA was feeling good with a 7-0 lead from a touchdown plunge from quarterback Drew Robison and a strong effort from

the Big Red defense, which held the Cobras to seven first downs in the game. During the second half, the Cobras came back with a touchdown pass and a last minute field goal to win the game 10-7.

After recovering from the heartbreaking loss to Whites Creek, the Big Red came back to defeat Beech 33-0, with our strong defense holding the running game to a mere thirty-four yards rushing and six first downs. Two rushing touchdowns from Dan Brooks and Robert Echols and two touchdown passes from Robison to Brad Bishop and Alex Waddey was all we needed to win. Alex Waddey's returning an intercepted pass forty-five yards for a fourth touchdown was icing on the cake.

The next game with Overton was a little story. The Big Red

barely pulled it out 10-7 with a scoring pass to Waddey and a crowd-pleasing forty-one yard field goal from Pat Harckeroad.

Then came the trek to the Cumberland Plateau to combat with the Cookeville Cavaliers. After a two hour drive, the Big Red were faced with a greater contest than the score of the game. When the Red walked out onto the game field, they were greeted by a cold silence; there were few spectators to support the Red. Another humbling factor was the torrents of rain during the second half. The Big Red was able to overcome these factors and pull away with a 17-6 win. The defense was lead by leading tackler Brooks Smith. During the last minutes of the game, MBA star quarterback Drew Robison suffered an ankle injury from a Cavalier late hit. This injury cast a dark

shadow upon the offensive future of the Big Red. With the sidelining of Robison, Brentwood High's threat upon MBA was even greater. Junior quarterback Billy Crawford was forced to step into the starting line-up. MBA won handily, led by Robert Echols' 131 yards rushing and a strong defense which held the Bruins to a mere 86 rushing yards. Alden Smith's efforts were finally rewarded with a 49 yard punt return and a touchdown pass from a broken play. Several other scores were added by Dan Brooks and Bo Healy.

Game number eight was against a tough Father Ryan team. Everything seemed to go sour for the Big Red as they suffered a 24-7 loss. Enough about that.

Things were much brighter for the Big Red the next week, as MBA crushed the Pearl-Cohn Firebirds 44-0. This homecoming victory raised the spirits of students and alumni alike.

Now the question is, "Will MBA venture to a bowl game?" There was a player decision of "No," to this question. The MBA players made this decision because of their depression about not making the state playoffs.

...Microbe Cross-Country

from page ten..
cial to the team this year and should dramatically improve the team next year.

With Mrs. Christeson's help, the current eighth graders are improving consistently. Jason Barton, the top Microbe runner, has run the 1.5 mile course in 9:20.

Howard Rietz (10:09), Alan Sundell (11:43), Michael Burke (11:44), and Jason Willis (11:47) also contribute.

Although the team has not yet won a meet, it is hoped that experience and practice will make them competitive in the future. Their season culminates on Octo-

ber 13 with the championship run at Brentwood Academy.

*Thanks to
MBA moms
and dads
and everyone else who
helped for a
great
Spaghetti
Supper!*

...Frosh Football
important factors. The defense is led by Eric Crawford and Chad Weaver with the help of Ray Brooks and Paul Mozier.

At this point in the the

season, the freshman record stands at 4-1, and they plan to improve their record with flawless victories throughout the rest of the season.



Bull prays for mercy.

Montgomery Bell Academy
4001 Harding Road
Nashville, TN 37205